

The Scarlet Letter
Vocabulary Chapters 7-15

procure: (v) to acquire something; to obtain something, especially by effort

disposition: (n) usual mood or temperament of a person (or animal)

delusive: (adj) misleading, deceitful, beguiling

phantasm: (n) image created by one's imagination; figment; daydream; delusion

intrinsic: (adj) being part of the innermost nature of a person/thing; built-in; innate

cabal: (n) group involved in secret/criminal activities (think of Julius Caesar's conspirator's!)

cabalistic: (adj) conspiratory

eldritch: (adj) eerie, weird

catechism: (n) a book (or collection of questions/answers) giving a summary of the basic principles of Christianity

plumage: (n) feathers of a bird

propensity: (n) natural tendency to demonstrate particular behavior

sedulous: (adj) working with great zeal and persistence; diligent

scurrilous: (adj) abusive or defamatory: containing abusive language or defamatory allegations

dauntless: (adj) unlikely or unable to be frightened or discouraged; confident; fearless

despondent: (adj) extremely unhappy and discouraged; dejected

malevolence: (n) the quality or state of wanting to cause harm to others

erudite: (adj) very knowledgeable through study and reading

efficacious: (adj) having the power to produce a desired result; effective

capricious: (adj) given to sudden changes; changing often and quickly; erratic

machination: (n) act of plotting; a scheming or crafty action

perchance: (adv) by some chance; perhaps; possibly